



TITLE(s): PROGRAM OFFICER RESEARCH FELLOW
Payband 4C (\$27.79 to \$43.60 per hour)

OR

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR RESEARCH FELLOW
Payband 3B (\$39.77 to \$66.12 per hour)

POSITION: FULL-TIME - PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTOR (PSC)

This position may be filled at either level, depending on candidate qualifications and available funding. See also 7.0 Evaluation Criteria.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a U.S. Government corporation whose mission is to provide assistance that will support economic growth and poverty reduction in carefully selected developing countries that demonstrate a commitment to just and democratic governance, economic freedom, and investments in their citizenry. Key MCC operating principles relating to the award of grants include emphasis on economic impact, reward for performance, partnership with recipient countries, and focus on results. Eligible countries are invited to develop and submit grant proposals to MCC for consideration. MCC will seek to enter into a Compact for assistance with those countries that submit quality proposals for poverty reduction through economic growth.

The MCC Department of Policy and Evaluation (DPE) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) unit has two core objectives: (i) ensure *accountability* for results and (ii) *learn* what works and what doesn't to achieve poverty reduction through economic growth through MCC's investments. In order to meet these objectives, substantial time and financial resources are invested in the design and implementation of performance and impact evaluations, which results in production of unique primary data for beneficiaries at the household and enterprise levels.

DPE is establishing an MCC Research Fellowship Program to strengthen the learning function of the M&E unit. The main objectives of the MCC Research Fellowship Program are to: (i) produce timely analysis on what worked and what didn't in Compact activities to strengthen the feedback loop between DPE, Department of Compact Operations (DCO) and government stakeholders for ongoing evidence-based decision making and project design and (ii) generate and disseminate global, policy relevant evidence using unique, MCC-financed data.

2.0 SCOPE

To date, MCC has financed performance and impact evaluations in over 120 projects, producing an extensive base of relevant primary data collection on expected beneficiary populations. Fellows will collaborate with the MCC M&E Managing Director and staff on a variety of analyses.

3.0 TASKS

The PSC will perform the following tasks which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Technical support on MCC-financed impact and performance evaluations**
 - Provide technical advice on formulation of research questions, evaluation methodology, power calculations, sampling and other technical areas for MCC-financed impact and performance evaluations
 - In areas of technical expertise, support literature reviews for Compact Evaluation Concept Notes and Technical Evaluation Papers
 - Review and comment on Compact Evaluation Concept Notes and Technical Evaluation Papers
- **Country-specific baseline data analysis.**
 - Collaborate with Evaluation Firms and data collection firms on data cleaning and documentation
 - Test the assumptions of ERR models
 - Produce policy relevant analysis of constraints to growth for beneficiary population
 - Produce policy relevant analysis of relevant sector or thematic topics
- **Country-specific impact data analysis.**
 - Collaborate with Evaluation Firms and data collection firms on data cleaning and documentation
 - Collaborate with Evaluation Firms and/or MCC M&E and Econ leads to further develop country-specific impact data analysis, including testing all economic assumptions in the project logic, refining ERR models and understanding pathways for impact (or no impact)
 - Produce policy relevant analysis of constraints to growth for beneficiary population
 - Produce policy relevant analysis of relevant sector or thematic topics
- **Cross-country meta-studies.**
 - Collaborate with Evaluation Firms and data collection firms on data cleaning and documentation
 - Develop and lead cross-country sector and/or thematic meta-analyses to draw lessons from the MCC portfolio.

Prior to initiating analysis, Fellows will develop a Research Proposal to submit to DPE for peer review.

All analysis produced under approved Research Proposals will be documented and results will be written in appropriate dissemination formats, including technical briefs, articles or other similar formats.

Fellows will be responsible for disseminating results to the broad range of MCC, MCA, government and other stakeholders through brown bag lunches, workshops and international conferences. Fellows may be required to support organization of and participation in dissemination events, including:

- Presentations to Washington, DC based MCC staff
- Presentations to field based MCC and MCA staff
- Presentations to Compact country government counterparts and other stakeholders
- Presentations in international conferences

4.0 DELIVERABLES

Fellows will produce a variety of deliverables, including but not limited to:

- **Comments and drafts** of Compact Evaluation Concept Notes and Technical Papers
- **Research Proposals** will be developed and submitted to MCC M&E Managing Director and peer review prior to initiating analysis.
- **Technical briefs** for MCC and MCA senior management on Compact evaluations and synthesizing evaluation results across Compacts (*minimum 3-4 annually*)
- **Technical articles** for publication in scientific journals (*minimum 1 annually*)
- **MCC Discussion Papers** (*minimum 3-4 annually*)
- **Presentations** in workshops and international conferences (*minimum 2-3 annually*)
- **Economic Rate of Returns** may be replicated using updated data, including baseline data from impact evaluations, for Compact Closeout activities. In addition, once impact evaluations are complete, Fellows may replicate original ERR models or develop new models based on updated economic assumptions using the evidence generated by MCC-financed impact evaluations in the post-Compact period.

Any analysis produced under the Fellowship Program requires submission to MCC of STATA (or other) do files, draft documents and final analysis files in order to replicate or validate results of analysis and document appropriately.

5.0 PLACE OF PERFORMANCE

The contractor will perform work under this contract on a full time basis in MCC eligible countries, Washington, DC, or at the PSC office or home of record, or as required to complete tasks upon approval of the COR or PM.

6.0 TYPE OF CONTRACT AND PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The successful candidate(s) may be offered a full time personal service type contract for a six month base period, plus two twelve month option years based on performance and agency requirements, which may be exercised at the sole discretion of the MCC. Contracts will be full time (up to 2,087 hours per 12-month period) dependent upon MCC requirements.

7.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The MCC Research Fellowship Program seeks researchers to work under the guidance of the Senior Research Fellow(s), M&E and Econ Managing Directors on analysis of key topics of interest for MCC and Compact country governments.

Fellows will be selected on the basis of (i) academic performance, (ii) technical specialty and (iii) a 1-2 page research proposal on a topic of the candidate's choice which focuses on an issue currently faced by the agency. The research proposal should include MCC-relevant analysis, which includes research questions, analysis plan and policy relevance.

The required and desired qualifications for candidates are listed below. The Associated Director position has additional or more complex criteria.

	Program Officer (PO)	Associate Director (AD)
Required Qualifications	1. Strong coordination and organizational skills	
	2. Ability to work well in a fast-paced, team environment	
	3. Demonstrated ability for attention to detail	
	4. Demonstrative ability to communicate clearly and effectively to broad audiences (both written and oral)	
	5. BA in Economics, Econometrics, International Studies or similar degree	5. MA in Economics, Econometrics or similar degree
	6. Minimum 2 years knowledge of and experience with statistical analysis (SAS, STATA, other statistical software package)	6. Minimum 3 years knowledge of and experience with statistical analysis (SAS, STATA, other statistical software package)
		7. Demonstrable technical experience working in key MCC-financed sectors (roads, water and sanitation, credit and financial services, energy, education and/or health)
		8. Demonstrable technical experience working in key MCC thematic areas (gender, poverty, governance, private-public partnerships)
		9. Demonstrative ability to interpret analysis and present policy relevant conclusions
Desired Qualifications	1. Foreign language skills, especially Spanish, French and Portuguese	
	2. MA in Economics, Econometrics, International Studies or similar degree	2. PhD in Economics, Econometrics or similar degree
		3. Recommendations or publications in international journals

Candidate must be able to obtain a public trust clearance.

8.0 HOW TO APPLY

Interested parties must submit the following items by email to recruitment@mcc.gov:

- 1) resume
- 2) cover letter addressing the evaluation criteria
- 3) academic transcripts (Note: Applicants may provide an unofficial version during the application phase. However the apparent successful candidate shall provide an official version prior to contract award.)
- 4) research proposal
- 5) three professional references

Please include one of the applicable position titles “**PO Research Fellow —PSC**” or “**AD Research Fellow –PSC**” in the subject line of your email. The initial cut-off for applications will be **June 4, 2012**; however, the announcement will remain open continuously until the position is filled.

Your application will be on file for six months after the announcement closes or six months from the date you applied to an open and continuous announcement.

Applications are reviewed every three months.

If selected for an assignment, you will receive an email notification from MCCs Office of Contracts and Grants Management

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS FOR AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR TO PERFORM CONSULTANT SERVICES AND IS NOT FOR INDIVIDUALS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT DIRECTLY WITH MCC. PLEASE VISIT: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/index.html> FOR INFORMATION REGARDING INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS.